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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2000

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Peter **Van De Velde** (Belgium)

I. Calendar of conferences and meetings

D. Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

Introduction and overview

1. At its 429th meeting, on 7 August, the Committee considered a note by the Secretariat (A/AC.172/2000/CRP.3) to which were annexed requests from subsidiary bodies for exceptions to be made to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, in which the Assembly decided that no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly would be permitted to meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

2. In accordance with the procedure established by the Committee, the requests included explanations as to: (a) why the bodies wished to meet; (b) why they had not completed their work by the deadline of 1 September, as laid down in section I, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 40/243; (c) why it was necessary to meet during the session of the Assembly; and (d) how many meetings would be required. Statistical information was also provided on the number of meetings, if any, that the bodies concerned had held during the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly and the efficiency with which they had utilized the resources made available to them.

Discussion

3. Committee members expressed concern about the inefficient use of conference facilities by some bodies meeting during the main part of the General Assembly

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session, as reflected in the statistics on late starting and early ending provided in section II of the annex to the note by the Secretariat, and asked the Chairman to draw the attention of those bodies to the importance of making better use of available resources. Noting that the work programme of certain bodies, notably the United Nations Development Programme, seemed to necessitate meetings in the autumn on a regular basis, the Committee decided to remain seized of the matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee on Conferences recommended to the General Assembly that it explicitly authorize the following bodies to meet in New York during the main part of its fifty-fifth session, on the understanding that meetings would have to be accommodated as facilities and services became available so that the activities of the Assembly itself would not be adversely affected:

(a) Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund;

(b) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;

(c) Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund;

(d) Committee on Relations with the Host Country;

(e) Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

(f) Preparatory Committee for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development.